

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03490 171746Z

73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 SSM-05 /087 W

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R 171420Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

EC BRUSSELS 338

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS CAIRO 3490

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARAB CAPTIALS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS MARCH 17, DELIBERATIONS OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL PREVIOUS DAY ENDED IN DECISION TO POSTPONE CHOICE OF DATE AND SITE FOR UPCOMING ARAB SUMMIT. AL COUNCIL DECIDED THAT SECGEN RIAD WOULD CONTACT ARAB LEADERS POSSIBLE TIMES OR PLACES WERE MENTIONED IN ARTICLES.

2. ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND DETERMINED THAT NEXT (FOURTH) SESSION OF GENERAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET IN LUXEMBOURG MAY 18-21 TO DISCUSS PRIMARILY POLITICAL ISSUES WITH EC MEMBERS. AL COUNCIL DECIDED TO HOLD MEETING PRIOR TO LUXEMBOURG SESSION TO UNIFY ARAB STRATEGY BUT NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03490 171746Z

3. AL COUNCIL ALSO REACHED DECISION NOT TO DEBATE SAHARA

QUESTION DURING PRESENT SESSION. ACCORDING TO AKHBAR, MOROCCAN FONMIN LARAKI PUSHED STRONGLY FOR DISCUSSION OF SAHARA ISSUE, ARGUING THAT 7TH ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT HAD SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED MOROCCAN TAKE-OVER OF SAHARA. ALGERIAN DELEGATION LEADER, MINED AHMAD TALIB AL-IBRAHIMI, OBJECTED TO LARAKI'S ASSERTIONS, HOWEVER, AND COUNCIL CHOSE TO EVADE THE ISSUE.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING, SCHEDULED TO END MARCH 17, DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE YIELDED MANY CONCRETE DECISIONS, DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY DURING SESSION LOBBYING AMONG ARAB DELEGATIONS. ON MARCH 16 FAHMY MET PRIVATELY WITH SAUDI FONMIN SA'UD BIN FAYSAL, KUWAITI FONMIN SHAIKH SALAH AL-AHMAD AND IRAQI FON MIN SA'ADUN AL HAMADI. FAHMY SCHEDULED TO SEE SIX MORE DELEGATIONS (INCLUDING LIBYAN) MARCH 17, WITH TWO MORE FOLLOWING DAY. CONCERNING HOLDING OF ARAB SUMMIT, FAHMY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EVASIVE, STATING THAT EGYPT PREPARED TO ATTEND ANY SUMMIT, IF (POLITICAL) CLIMATE IS RIGHT AND ALL STATES AGREE. GENERALLY DELIBERATIONS OF AL COUNCIL OVERSHADOWED BY CURRENT EGYPTIAN PREOCCUPATION WITH ABROGATION OF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH SOVIETS AND PRESS TREATS UNPRODUCTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL ONLY ON INTERIOR PAGES.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARAB CAPITALS.

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